

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case of heating the work held apart from the heating surface, if the  $R_{max}$  value of the heating surface exceeds  $200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , a turbulence of gas flow is created in the space between the work and the heating surface so that the heat is locally built up to cause a temperature distribution in the work. On the other hand, if the  $R_{max}$  value is less than  $0.05\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , the temperature distribution of the heating surface is directly reflected on the work by radiant heat so that a temperature distribution is created. Thus, the range of  $R_{max} = 0.05$  to  $200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  is a characteristic range of surface roughness suited for the heating mode in which the work is held apart from the heating surface and heated in a gaseous heat transfer medium.